United Nations A/C.2/63/SR.6

General Assembly
Sixty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
3 November 2008

Original: English

**Second Committee**

**Summary record of the 6th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 8 October 2008, at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson*: Ms. Ogwu ..... (Nigeria)
*later*: Mr. Hoppe (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Germany)
*later*: Ms. Ogwu (Chairperson) ..... (Nigeria)

## Contents

General debate (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

08-54007 (E)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Bakir** (Iraq) said that he represented both Iraq and the Kurdistan region, the Government of which was committed to the achievement of stability and prosperity through adherence to the Constitution and the rule of law.

2. The people of Iraq faced the same difficulties as the rest of the world, but the nation's development would also depend on political dialogue, national reconciliation and reconstruction. Iraq was in a transitional phase, in which democracy, federalism and opportunity had replaced the horrors of dictatorship. Constitutional guarantees of fundamental rights and freedoms were essential to the establishment of a pluralistic state that would benefit all Iraqis. Diversity must be respected, but all must play their part in building the Iraqi State. The Iraqi people had been stifled by the former regime: all economic decisions had been centralized and regional governments had not existed. That situation had been reversed. The Kurdistan Regional Government was a shining example of how local government could operate within a federal Iraq. By avoiding sectarian differences, it had promoted growth for Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Chaldeans and Assyrians alike. It was to be hoped that other Iraqi leaders could follow the same model and that inclusive governance could be a catalyst for economic development. A conference on that topic had recently been held in Erbil, attended by the seven northern governorates. Governors and other officials had had the opportunity to express their views on the issues most important to their constituents.

3. The people of Iraq were grateful to the United Nations and fellow Member States for their contributions to the development of Iraq. The International Compact with Iraq was a mechanism whereby the international community could be involved in improving the lives of the Iraqi people. Some nations had decided to forgive the country's debts, while others had helped with reconstruction. The Kurdistan Regional Government, for its part, had reached out to neighbouring countries, particularly its Arab neighbours, and was happy that firms based in the Gulf were beginning to invest in the country. Such investment was a centrepiece of the Government's economic strategy. He also paid a tribute to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, which had conducted workshops and training initiatives. There was an inherent, logical connection between education, at every level, and economic development.

4. The Kurdistan Regional Government had worked tirelessly with the Government of Iraq to maintain security, encourage development and promote democracy. The strategy had been a resounding success. The emphasis on foreign and national investment, agricultural reconstruction and attention to the immediate needs of society had created opportunities that had long been unavailable to the Iraqi people. Specifically, the Government strove to develop its human resource capacity, maintain a transparent and accountable government, develop infrastructure, improve the delivery of government services, empower women and pay due attention to the environment. The more such activities could be replicated throughout the country, the more surely all Iraqis would attain prosperity and security.

5. **Ms. 'Utoikamanu** (Tonga) said that, as a small island developing State, Tonga faced development challenges that it could not solve on its own. Although it strove to be self-sufficient, it relied on the goodwill of donor countries and partners to strengthen its capacity for sustainable development. As for the wider picture, her delegation hoped that the honest discussions at the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals would further the attainment of the Goals by 2015. Political will and international cooperation were the key. Such cooperation had, unfortunately, been lacking when the Doha Round had been suspended. Her Government had joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) to take its place amongst the world's trading nations. No effort should be spared to restart the talks.

6. One of Tonga's key concerns was the development of agriculture and rural development. With the help of development partners and regional and international financial institutions, Tonga had embarked on programmes to improve access to basic services, to increase the country's ability to cope with natural disasters and to promote equitable access to natural resources and technology.

7. The fisheries sector was also crucial for the Pacific small island developing States. Several of the atoll States in the region had limited land but vast marine resources. The region needed to develop its national fishing industries and, at the same time, deal

with the negative impact of by-catch, discards, illegal or unreported fishing and overfishing. There were many possibilities for progress, including cooperative market arrangements for subsistence fishermen and community aquaculture.

8. Climate change had had an enormous impact on sustainable development in Tonga, depleting its limited resources. Much of the rural population suffered greater hardship as a result of more frequent and intense tropical cyclones. Changes in sea level would affect small, low-lying atolls and high temperatures would facilitate the spread of disease. Such phenomena were exacerbated by the sharp increase in the price of imported food and fuel. Climate change threatened the very survival of Tonga. In that connection, she drew attention to a draft resolution on the threat of climate change to international peace and security co-sponsored by the Pacific small island developing States. The continuity of the lands and survival of the region's people was central to the study of the relationship between climate change and sustainable development. With the loss of their ancestral lands, the Tongan people would face the tragedy of dislocation and forced migration. In other words, the very concept of sustainable development was no longer a certainty for small island developing States; the islands were sinking. She urged all Member States to support the draft resolution, which would be submitted to the plenary rather than the Second Committee, owing to the security implications of the effects of climate change. Indeed, the Security Council would be the most effective and appropriate body to address the issue. Her delegation was confident that the draft resolution would not interfere with the negotiation process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or with the funding sources for sustainable development. On the contrary, it should strengthen the existing framework of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

9. **Mr. Palihakkara** (Sri Lanka) said that the global financial crisis imposed additional pressure on developing economies, which were already grappling with soaring food and energy prices. There was a risk that the momentum built up over the past years — and the progress towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals — would be reversed. Over a billion people across the world suffered from chronic hunger; the recent sharp rise in food prices would aggravate the situation. The acreage of arable lands clearly needed to be increased and it was a mistake to sacrifice such land to grow biofuels. Moreover, efforts should be made to provide improved seeds, ensure timely fertilizer supplies and invest in agricultural research and better infrastructure. His Government had launched a number of initiatives to empower small and medium-sized farmers, including a scheme to provide fertilizers, at a cost of US$ 138 million in the first half of 2008. In that connection, the leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation had decided, at their recent summit in Colombo, to establish a food bank to augment global efforts on food security.

10. The widening disparities in international trade, poor investment flows to developing countries, the technological and digital divide and irregular migration were all problems requiring practical solutions. The developing countries would be the hardest hit, if urgent measures were not implemented to correct deficiencies in macroeconomic policies. The vicious cycle of inflation and unemployment could be broken only if investment was increased and local production stimulated. In fact, however, official development assistance (ODA) had declined in 2007, for the second consecutive year. Even a sudden escalation of aid flow would not compensate for the failure to provide continuous and predictable ODA. Such assistance targets should be met in full.

11. Developing countries should accelerate growth in order to close the widening gap between rich and poor. Stringent measures imposed by other countries, however, prevented them from obtaining access to the necessary development aid, investment opportunities or export markets. That was a disturbing trend, which should be redressed through open rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trade and financial policies. What most developing economies, especially those of middle-income countries like Sri Lanka, needed was assistance with fair trade.

12. International migration was an issue with far-reaching social and economic consequences for the sending and receiving States, and for the migrants themselves. The issue should form an integral part of international development strategies and the welfare of migrants and their families should be addressed as a matter of priority. International regimes to protect and promote migrants' rights should be complied with. Migrant remittances, which were private funds, should not be considered a substitute for ODA.

13. Development was meaningless unless the sustainability of the natural environment was assured. The increasing magnitude and frequency of climate-related disasters indicated that it would be prudent to revisit economic development policies. The effect of climate change had aggravated the food and energy crises. A more balanced and careful approach to environmental policies should, therefore, be taken and there should be enhanced international cooperation in the field of disaster reduction.

14. Against the odds, many developing countries still possessed the potential for stronger development, if their natural resources were properly used. Regrettably, such resources were too often misused. These should be an internationally agreed trade-off for the forest cover and biodiversity in developing countries that created a critical buffer reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating desertification. More should be done to transfer technology and know-how to developing countries.

15. His delegation appreciated the development assistance that it continued to receive. Its primary focus, however, was on self-reliant growth and development. Over the years, the growth rate in Sri Lanka had averaged 6 per cent, despite two decades of terrorism and the vagaries of the external environment. Much had been achieved. Free educational facilities, school meals and free textbooks for students, together with scholarships for needy students, had resulted in over 95 per cent primary school enrolment and retention rates and a 95 per cent literacy rate among young people. A free health service had increased life expectancy, lowered child mortality and enhanced maternal care. If such progress was to continue, all development partners should assume continued investment, trade flows, and personal contacts.

16. **Mr. Mahiga** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country was concerned about the slowing of global growth and considered that the challenge to all developing countries was to survive the adverse environment by maintaining economic growth and stabilizing the inflationary pressures arising from the global crisis.

17. His Government was pursuing legal, regulatory and institutional reforms to improve the investment climate and promote growth and good governance. The country's macroeconomic performance had been positive since the late 1990s and, in recent years, it had reduced its dependence on ODA. It considered that economic growth should be accompanied by equity measures to reduce the gap between rich and poor and had made major progress towards universal primary education and increased school enrolment; the current emphasis was on producing more and better teachers. It had also made some advances in the health sector and was taking measures to address the issue of decent and productive work.

18. A political declaration had been adopted at the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs and the United Republic of Tanzania hoped that the Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly a comprehensive report with recommendations on the implementation of the corresponding commitments.

19. Given the new challenges, the strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) needed to be redefined. The High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals had called for renewed political commitment and action to mobilize additional resources. Science and technology played a crucial role in the achievement of the MDGs and other internationally agreed goals. Therefore, technology transfers were required in order to disseminate appropriate technology in developing countries. With regard to the environment and climate change, his country urged strict adherence to international conventions and appropriate responses to adaptation and mitigation measures.

20. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development should not be a routine review of previous commitments, but a rethinking of how to tackle the unanticipated challenges facing the international community so as to establish a new basis for future actions. It was evident that fair trade was the engine of growth for developing countries and the United Nations, in partnership with other multilateral organizations, should mobilize the political will to resume the stalled trade negotiations.

21. **Mr. Valero** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the global crisis of capitalism, which had become a multidimensional catastrophe affecting the finance, food, energy and environment sectors, illustrated the need to develop alternative systems. Bolivarian socialism was one of the most relevant. The current crisis sprang from voracious capital accumulation, ambition and the absence of a national

regulatory framework. Nevertheless, the underlying cause was the application of neo-liberal structural adjustment policies, which had led to the transfer of wealth from the workers and the middle class to the wealthiest members of society in the belief that the rich would make productive investments to create more goods, services and employment leading to prosperity for all. That had proved to be wishful thinking: poverty had increased and consumption had declined, with negative effects on all humanity.

22. The environmental crisis, revealed by global warming and climate change, was related to the anti-values of the existing system. Human beings and nature had become mere production resources, leading to increased poverty and environmental degradation. Capital accumulated in the hands of the few was reflected in the destruction of rivers, oceans, lakes and forests and physical and spiritual poverty.

23. Those who had brought the world to the brink of catastrophe should not be the leaders of the new world order. The Bretton Woods institutions, the other multilateral organizations, and the dominant Governments of the world should assume their responsibility in the current crisis. The United States of America and its speculative financial institutions bore special responsibility and should not attempt to transfer the devastating effects of the crisis to other countries and peoples, particularly the countries and peoples of the South. Consequently, the United Nations must assume responsibility for the design of the new world order, within a framework of multi-polarity, equity, justice, multiculturalism and respect for the dignity of man and nature.

24. **Mr. Baatar** (Mongolia) said that the unprecedented challenges currently facing the world called for countries to act collectively. The international community, meanwhile, must mobilize the resources needed for a global response. The failure of the Doha Round had hindered efforts to forge a genuine global partnership for development. Rising food prices, meanwhile, made it even harder for poor countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals within agreed time frames and, in many cases, had caused social instability and unrest. He commended the international community on its efforts to address the global food crisis, in particular the concrete steps taken by United Nations system organizations to mitigate its impact on the vulnerable.

25. Stressing the importance of national efforts to revive domestic agricultural production, he said that, as a result of its nationwide crop rehabilitation drive, Mongolia had reduced its dependency on wheat imports from 70 per cent in 2007 to 50 per cent in 2008 and hoped to be self-sufficient by 2010. Given the legitimate concern among developing countries that the current financial crisis would cause a global economic downturn, his delegation proposed holding a series of dialogues or meetings to review the international financial architecture, so as to prevent similar crises in the future.

26. Mongolia remained committed to the full implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. At the High-level Event on the Goals held in September 2008, world leaders had reiterated their commitment to the Goals. Furthermore, new financial pledges had been made, existing initiatives given fresh impetus and new efforts to eradicate extreme poverty announced. However, the global food and fuel crises threatened to reverse progress towards the Goals in many developing countries. His delegation was particularly concerned about the wide disparities within and among regions. According to the Basic Capabilities Index 2008, the Goals would not be achieved by 2015 at the present rate of progress. Pledges and commitments must therefore be accompanied by actual deeds. Mongolia expected to achieve two thirds of its targets by 2015. To achieve all the Goals, its national efforts must be actively supported by the international community.

27. The High-level Meeting devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action had provided an invaluable opportunity to review progress and share lessons learned. He hoped that the Committee would identify ways to accelerate implementation of both the Almaty Programme of Action and the related General Assembly decision. He reiterated his Government's proposal to establish, in Mongolia, an international think tank to enhance the analytical capability of landlocked developing countries and thereby improve the coordination of efforts to implement the Almaty Programme of Action. He called on relevant international organizations and donor countries to assist in that regard.

28. The worst effects of climate change could be avoided if genuine collective action was agreed in the coming years. Developing countries contributed the least to, but were expected to suffer the most from,

climate change. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be at the heart of any post-2012 emission reduction framework, as should commitments by developed countries to facilitate the transfer of clean and renewable technology and provide financing and capacity-building for developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation strategies. It was hoped that the North-East Asia summit on climate change that Mongolia planned to host in 2009 would contribute to the agreement to be reached in time for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

29. *Mr. Hoppe (Germany), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

30. **Mr. Matenje** (Malawi) said that the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs and the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, held in September 2008, and the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, held in October 2008, had offered world leaders an opportunity to renew their commitment to address the challenges raised by the current global crises. The Committee should translate the outcomes of those meetings into practical, tangible and measurable decisions aimed at eradicating poverty, particularly in the least developed countries.

31. It was not beyond the international community's capabilities to solve the global food crisis. For the least developed countries, whose economies were predominantly agricultural, the solution was to be found in agricultural production and food security. It was a matter of concern that aid agencies continued to oppose the subsidization of agricultural and food production in the least developed countries, even though the high cost of agricultural inputs prevented poor farmers in such countries from producing food for themselves. The World Bank and other aid agencies should seriously consider making agricultural subsidies an integral part of their development and aid policy towards developing countries, particularly the least developed countries. That was the most effective way to make agricultural inputs affordable for poor farmers, increase food production and improve food security.

32. Malawi's agricultural input subsidy programme had produced outstanding results in its three years of existence. Malawi was able to produce its own food and had demonstrated that such a programme, if well managed, could assist poor farmers in producing their own food and ensure food security for the whole country without the need for costly imports. Malawi was therefore determined to pursue the programme until such time as it reached sustainable food security levels. He called on Malawi's development partners to scale up their investment in agriculture and to share their research, science and technology relating to agricultural production and processing with the least developed countries.

33. Owing to their marginalization in international trade, most developing countries would be unable to achieve the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. In that regard, the collapse earlier that year of the Doha Round, which was crucial to achieving global welfare and reducing poverty, was a matter of great concern. He urged industrialized countries to demonstrate the spirit of compromise and political will needed to ensure the resumption and successful conclusion of the Round. His Government hoped that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, would generate the necessary political will and pave the way for an early resumption of the Round.

34. Lastly, Malawi, like other least developed countries, remained at the mercy of the vagaries of climate change. Agricultural production in many developing countries had been adversely affected by erratic rainfall, persistent droughts and floods. Countries such as Malawi which had agricultural economies had been hit hardest, even though their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions was negligible. His delegation supported the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as the basis for collective efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation and looked forward to the successful outcome of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Poznań in December.

35. *Ms. Ogwu (Nigeria) resumed the Chair.*

36. **Mr. Bodini** (San Marino) said that the current financial crisis was fast becoming a global tsunami whose repercussions were yet to be defined. San Marino did not have the ability or the instruments to defend itself against the consequences of such devastation and would therefore approach discussions

during the current session in an open and pragmatic manner. As others had pointed out, the financial turmoil would impact efforts in a wide range of areas, including the MDGs, climate change, food, water and energy. Efforts must be redoubled if the expectations of billions of people in need were to be met.

37. Member States should not wait until the next Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum or any other meeting to learn from the media how to solve their common problems, but should make the General Assembly the focal point for new and universal ideas on how to address the financial crisis. The Assembly was the most representative body and, therefore, the forum most qualified to discuss the issue in a fair and effective way. The Committee should, therefore, consider addressing the global financial crisis during the current session.

38. **Mr. Khaleel** (Maldives) said that, in view of the current global financial and economic turmoil, the United Nations should renew its efforts to design a global economy that addressed inequality and redressed global imbalances in finance and trade regimes. An early and successful completion of the Doha Round and a constructive outcome to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development were crucial in that regard.

39. Upon joining the United Nations in 1965, Maldives had been one of the poorest countries in the world. Since then, it had made considerable socio-economic progress, successfully pursuing a people-centred path of sustainable development based on social equity, poverty eradication, economic growth, environmental protection and good governance. Moreover, it had fully incorporated the Millennium Development Goals into its development priorities and was on track to attain most targets by 2015.

40. Sustaining that development was proving to be an immense challenge in the face of continuing global environmental degradation. For Maldives, climate change was an everyday reality that forced it to divert its limited resources away from strategic development towards recovery and reconstruction. Small island developing States such as Maldives contributed least to, but were threatened most by, global warming.

41. The international community had an obligation to address the injustices of climate change. A comprehensive rights-based approach to sustainable and just development, anchored in the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities, was essential. In that connection, he welcomed the Human Rights Council's recognition, earlier that year, of the link between human rights and climate change. The Council would formally discuss the issue at its tenth session in March 2009; he hoped that the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would give due consideration to the outcome of that discussion as it worked to ensure an effective and equitable successor to the Kyoto Protocol.

42. The General Assembly had taken note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Maldives be graduated from the group of least developed countries on 20 December 2004. However, in view of the extensive damage caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami just six days later, it had later decided to defer the commencement of its three-year smooth transition period until 1 January 2008. In that connection, he was pleased to report that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/209, his Government had established, in cooperation with its development and trading partners, a consultative mechanism to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy. Two dialogues had been held thus far, one on the Maldives Partnership Forum, in 2006, and the other on national adaptation to climate change and investment opportunities in Maldives, in 2007. The 2008 Forum would focus on the graduation of Maldives from the list of least developed countries and on the formulation of economic policies and strategies aimed at addressing the challenges of middle-income-country status. As a least developed country, Maldives had received considerable support from its development partners. He was confident that the international community would demonstrate the same spirit of cooperation and partnership when Maldives ceased to possess least-developed-country status.

43. **Mr. Naeemi** (Afghanistan) said that the current global crises posed difficult challenges for developing countries, particularly the least developed and post-conflict countries. The United Nations had a multi-faceted role to play in promoting economic and social development, including policy formulation and negotiation of international standards, goals and commitments; development cooperation to facilitate the realization of international goals and commitments; and monitoring of the implementation of those commitments.

44. Further analysis and policy formulation was required in many areas and the mechanisms in place for implementing and monitoring the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, must be strengthened. The international community also needed to take fully into account the specific challenges facing least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and post-conflict countries and to develop an effective global response in order to improve the situation in such countries.

45. **Mr. Al-Sabah** (Kuwait) said that the current global crises were likely to prevent many countries from achieving the Millennium Development Goals. For its part, Kuwait had made excellent progress in implementing its international commitments and had adopted a number of initiatives with a view to restructuring its national economy and further developing trade and investment activities.

46. Kuwait had adopted a generous policy of assistance to developing countries, including the establishment, in 1961, of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which had contributed more than $12 billion to fund infrastructure projects in over 100 countries. Kuwait continued to make voluntary contributions to many international and regional organizations working to provide humanitarian and relief assistance and had, in December 2007, decided to allocate to the specialized organizations working in the field, 10 per cent of every donation which it made to countries afflicted by disaster. Kuwait had also donated US$ 150 million to the Decent Life Fund established during the most recent summit of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

47. His delegation was deeply concerned about the current financial crisis and encouraged Committee members to focus on finding solutions at the current session. It also hoped that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would help determine the causes of the crisis and thus help prevent its recurrence.

48. **Ms. Heimer** (Nauru) said that the international community needed to address the current global crises as quickly and effectively as possible by drafting consensus resolutions that were less concerned with budgetary implications than with helping those in dire need. Climate change was a particularly serious issue for small island nations, whose sustenance came mainly from the sea; mass migrations from such regions, if water submerged the land, were likely to pose a serious security challenge to the world before the end of the century.

49. The core responsibility of each country was to its citizens; however, while the global financial and food crises affected all nations, the poor shouldered an unfair burden. Once the far-reaching effects of the financial crisis were clear, and if the global economy was not able to correct itself, the international community must step in with all necessary assistance, starting with coordinated and responsible worldwide market regulation, in order to prevent a similar crisis in the future.

50. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development must be treated as an opportunity to hold productive talks, including on debt reduction measures. The talks should focus on the needs of Pacific small island developing States and least developed countries, rather than those of Africa alone.

51. Sustainability was key in overcoming each of the global crises. However, supplying funding for sustainable agricultural technologies was only half as important as providing the skilled workers capable of implementing and monitoring them. Green technologies would not only reduce dependence on non-renewable resources, but also provide jobs for people across the globe.

52. **Mr. Martirosyan** (Armenia) said that in the past year Armenia had held parliamentary and presidential elections and had continued aggressive reform of its economy and efforts to strengthen its security and reduce poverty, especially in rural areas. In the most recent UNDP Human Development Index, Armenia ranked highest among the countries in the region. Nevertheless, the current financial crisis could undermine Armenia's significant efforts by creating a widespread recession. Despite having little to do with the origins of the crisis, emerging economies were extremely vulnerable to a sudden halt in international capital flows. Decline in aggregated demand for commodities could also affect the economic performance of developing countries and economies in transition. Finally, his Government was concerned that a sharp decline in remittances, on which such countries were heavily dependent, would jeopardize sustainability of economic growth. He hoped that

donor countries would be able to maintain the level of assistance needed and exercise more flexibility in debt restructuring.

53. The diversification of energy sources and transit routes would remain high on the global development agenda. Armenia, located in the volatile Caucasus region, had been acutely aware of the importance of such diversification since its independence. The Iran-Armenia gas pipeline had very recently become operational and construction was to begin shortly of an Armenian nuclear plant. Armenia was co-sponsoring the draft resolution on reliable transit of energy (A/C.2/63/L.3).

*The meeting rose at 11.50 p.m.*